



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Virgil E. Stanley, III

Serial No. 10/797,490

Filed: 10 March 2004

For: **Artificial Christmas Tree**

Attorney Docket No. 4486-096  
Embarrassed appalled

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) **Patent Pending**  
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Group Art Unit 1743

Raleigh, North Carolina  
30 September 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The amendments enclosed herein correct typographical errors, cancel dependent claims 2 – 4, 11, and 14, and add new claims 17 - 29. No new matter has been added. In the claim amendments, five dependent claims are cancelled and thirteen new claims are added, two of which are independent claims. As a result, the application now includes a total of twenty-four claims, four of which are independent. A check in the amount of \$79.00 is included to cover the cost of the one independent claim and four dependent claims that are not covered by the original patent filing fee. Applicant is a small entity. Should any additional fees be required, the Patent Office is authorized to charge any required fees to Deposit Account 18-1167.

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Petition to Make Special under Rule 1.102(d).

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03 FC:2202 36.00 00